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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,518	04/12/2004	Syed Rafat Iqbal	1139-022	3343
25215	7590	04/07/2006	EXAMINER	
DOBRUSIN & THENNISCH PC 29 W LAWRENCE ST SUITE 210 PONTIAC, MI 48326			GARRETT, ERIKA P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3636	

DATE MAILED: 04/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/822,518

Applicant(s)

IQBAL ET AL.

Examiner

Erika Garrett

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 January 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 32-39, 42-46, 52-56 and 59-71 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-39, 42-46, 52-56 and 59-71 is/are rejected:
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/28/06.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 38-39 recites the limitation "the port in an extension of the insert" in lines 1-2. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 32-39, 42-44, 46, 52-56, 60-68 and 69-71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes (6,273,810) in view of Harker (6,687,937). Rhodes discloses the use of an insert comprising a flow control layer (25); a spacer (76) a fluid barrier (32) and thermoelectric device (column 4) associated with a blower (39); a seat portion and ambient air drawn through the flow control layer and temperature conditioned air drawn through the conduit are mixed within the insert. Further comprising a sensor (47), a seat cushion and seat cover (10); a heated layer; a port (27) in the flow

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control layer. Rhodes shows the use of all the claimed invention but fails to show the use of a conduit with at least one flow hole, and the conduit extends across a portion of the seat portion of the insert. Harker teaches the use of an additional spacer (129); a conduit (80,30) with at least one flow hole (106), and the conduit extend across a portion of the seat portion of the insert. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the insert with a conduit as taught by Harker, in order to control the air flow into the seat cushion while an occupant is in the seated position.

Claim 45 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes as applied to claim 32 above, and further in view of Wallman (6,048,024). Rhodes shows the use of all the claimed invention but fails to show the use of two fans. Wallman teaches the use of two blowers (9,10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the insert with two blowers as taught by Wallman in order to allow air flow into the insert.

Claims 59 and 62 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rhodes as applied to claims 32 and 61 above, and further in view of Flick (6,766,21). Rhodes shows the use of all the claimed invention but fails to show the use of spacer comprising polymeric material. Flick teaches the use of polymeric material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the spacer with polymeric material as taught by Flick, in order to seal the air flow in the insert.

***Response to Arguments***


Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 32-39, 42-46, 52-56 and 59-71 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

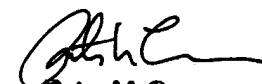
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Erika Garrett whose telephone number is 571-272-6859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pete Cuomo can be reached on 571-272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

EG   
April 2, 2006

  
Peter M. Cuomo  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 3600